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Date: August 26, 2002

To: Superintendents of School Districts
Serving 4th through 8th Grade Students

From: Susan Lange, Deputy Superintendent
Finance, Technology and Administration Branch

Subject: **School Renovation Technology Grant**
Application Due Date: November 5, 2002

The California Department of Education (CDE) is pleased to announce the availability of approximately \$33 million dollars to local educational agencies (LEAs) in California through the School Renovation Technology Grant program. Funding of this program is made possible through the United States Department of Education under Public Law 106-554 and is to be used for technology activities carried out in connection with school repair and renovation. The funds will be distributed through the new School Renovation Technology Grant program administered by CDE.

Competitive Grant Program

The purpose of the School Renovation Technology Grant program is to provide funding for hardware acquisition to lower the student-to-computer ratio to 10-to-one in 4th through 8th grade classrooms. The funds will be distributed through a competitive grant program to schools that have been recently renovated or will be renovated in the near future. Successful applicants will receive funding for purchasing up-to-date multimedia computers to reduce the student-to-multimedia computer ratio in 4th through 8th grade classrooms to 10-to-one or lower.

Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants include school districts and county offices of education that serve any combination of grades 4 through 8. Charter schools serving any combination of grades 4 through 8 may receive grant funds as a school within an LEA if locally funded, or apply as an LEA if directly funded. For each school listed in the application, the applicant agency must have a repair and renovation project approved or authorized between July 1, 2000 and November 5, 2002 (as defined in the application). In addition, the applicant agency must have also completed the *2002 Online California School Technology Survey*. The

survey must have been completed between January 14, 2002 and June 30, 2002 to be eligible to apply for a School Renovation Technology Grant.

Technology Plan Requirement

In addition to completing the application, school districts and county offices of education must submit (1) a current approved E-rate plan, or (2) local governing board certified education technology plan or (3) a technology plan that has been (or will be) reviewed and approved at the state level to align with the California State Board of Education planning guidelines. In consideration for funding, the application will be reviewed and scored based on whether the narrative section of the application adequately states how the new hardware provided by the grant will be used to support implementation of the goals of the technology plan. The narrative section is limited to five (5) pages and should cite or reference the technology plan. The technology plan will be reviewed in conjunction with the narrative, but will not be rated or scored.

Grant Awards

The application narrative will be scored pass/fail to determine the eligible applicants. For eligible LEAs, CDE will then calculate the student-to-multimedia computer ratio for each school based on data from the 2002 Online School Technology Survey and October 2001 CBEDS, and schools will be ranked based on highest school-wide student-to-multimedia computer ratio. The grant will be awarded by school with priority for funding going first to schools with the highest student-to-multimedia computer ratio at that school.

Individual grant amounts will be based upon \$2,000 per computer for the number of multimedia computers necessary to lower the student-to-multimedia computer ratio in the 4th through 8th grades to 10-to-one at the funded school. For schools that received Technology Literacy Challenge (TLC) Part B grants, the School Renovation Technology Grant award will be reduced by the amount of funding received under the TLC Part B program.

Funding for this grant is awarded by school site and any funding awarded to a school site must be spent at that school site only. Funding may not be transferred between qualifying schools. The grant must be used first to purchase the number of multimedia computers specified in the grant award for each school and these computers must be placed in classrooms serving grades 4 through 8, excluding computer labs and library media centers.

Application

For all applicants, both the application and the technology plan are due on November 5, 2002. School districts must also comply with Education Code 51871.5 (a) that requires a school district to have a technology plan as a precondition of receiving any technology grant administered by the CDE. School districts will not receive a School Renovation Technology Grant award unless CDE has confirmation by November 5, 2002, that the district has (1) a current approved E-rate plan or (2) a local governing board certified education technology plan or (3) a technology plan that has been reviewed and approved at the state level to align with the California State Board of Education planning guidelines.

A copy of the application may be downloaded from the School Renovation Technology Grant program Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/edtech/fedrenov.htm>. If you are unable to download the file, please call the CDE's Education Technology Office or contact your regional representative at the California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP). Assistance in completing the School Renovation Technology Grant application is also available from CTAP. Contact information about the regional CTAP offices can be found on the CDE Education Technology Office Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/edtech> or call the CDE's Education Technology Office (916) 323-5715.

We hope you will decide to take advantage of the School Renovation Technology Grant program, and be able to use this funding opportunity to improve student achievement and teaching. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Michelle Collins, Consultant, Education Technology Office, at (916) 323-5112 or via email at mcollins@cde.ca.gov, or Alicia Stampfli, Analyst, Education Technology Office at (916)323-5263 or via email at astampfl@cde.ca.gov.

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cc: California Technology Assistance Project Region Directors